



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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August 25, 2016

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter School Programs

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director *WJH*
Exceptional Children Division

RE: **Autism Professional Development and Reminder of AU PRC 118 Funding Applications**

The Exceptional Children Division would like to remind ALL LEAs and Charter Schools that wish to receive AU PRC 118 funds, to complete an application this year by **September 23, 2016**.

The link to complete the application is:

<http://ncautismteam.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/AU+PRC+118>

Please note End-of-Year (EOY) Goal Status Updates were due by June 30. If your updates have not been submitted, please do so as soon as possible. This report can be submitted through the same link listed above. These updates will be reviewed as part of the determination for the 2016-17 AU PRC 118 funding.

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce the following professional development (PD) opportunities for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Foundations of Autism-Learning Styles and Visual Supports: This professional development is geared toward assisting the novice (1st or 2nd year) self-contained classroom teacher and instructional assistant working with students with Autism (AU). While this three-day workshop is intended for self-contained classroom teachers and assistants, any educator working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is invited to attend. This workshop will provide participants with an overview of the learning styles of individuals with ASD, along with an introduction to specially designed instruction for students with autism which includes the use of specific evidence based practices such as environmental design and visual supports to provide meaning and promote independence. Participants will also learn a behavior problem solving process that is designed for teachers to utilize in order to effectively understand behaviors and how specially designed instruction can be an effective behavior management tool. The format of this workshop will include presentations, videos, interactive discussions, and small group activities.

Please note, one of the Foundations of Autism training date opportunities has been specifically designed for high school teachers. This training will be geared toward working away from the student's desk and integrating visual supports throughout the student's work environments.

After the first two days, participants will return to their classrooms and implement interventions and design a program based on an assessment of their students' learning styles and needs and understanding of specially designed instructional techniques. Participants will complete a homework assignment about the strategies they implemented with one student and share that assignment with a NC Department of Public Instruction Autism Consultant prior to attending day three. The homework is optional but required to receive CEUs.

Please follow this link to access registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foundations-of-autism-learning-styles-and-visual-supports-tickets-27161632173>

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Foundations of Autism-A Coaching Framework: This three-day workshop will be similar to the Foundations of Autism-*Learning Styles and Visual Supports* workshop described above, but will be geared specifically with a coaching framework in mind. This workshop is intended for Autism Coaches, or those who are in a position to support and coach teachers in providing services to individuals with autism. Participants will receive comparable content to the Foundations of Autism-*Learning Styles and Visual Supports* training, but in addition, will receive training on methods to coach around the content.

After the first two days, participants will return to their school(s) and implement coaching practices with teachers focusing on individualized specially designed instructional strategies based on an assessment of their students' learning styles and needs, with support from a DPI Autism Consultant or Autism Specialist from TEACCH. Participants will complete a homework assignment about the coaching and strategies they implemented prior to attending day three. The homework is optional but required to receive 2.5 CEUs.

Please follow this link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foundations-of-autism-a-coaching-framework-tickets-27212116172>

Foundations of Autism-Teaching Through Engagement (Advanced): (participants must have attended the three-day Foundations of Autism-*Learning Styles and Visual Supports* Workshop): This one-day workshop will focus on the continued use of specially designed instruction as well as the process of teaching strategies and restructuring activities based on understanding the student's learning styles and development. By the end of this training, participants will be able to conduct informal assessments to set learning objectives and monitor progress, describe a variety of effective teaching strategies, and implement a process for evaluating data during teaching sessions and determining the "next steps".

The format of this workshop will include presentations, videos, observation of a live assessment and teaching session, interactive discussions and small group activities. After the one-day workshop, participants will have the optional opportunity to meet at the TEACCH center in their region to discuss their successes as well as areas of need. Participants will receive .7 CEU's at the conclusion of this workshop.

Please follow this link to access registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foundations-of-autism-teaching-through-engagement-tickets-27212479258>

One Piece of the Puzzle-Creating Effective Classrooms for Students with ASD: This two-day workshop will be geared toward assisting the novice (1st or 2nd year), teacher working with students with AU in the general education setting. While this workshop is intended for general education/resource level teachers, any educator working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are invited to attend. This training will provide foundational information needed to understand the learning styles of individuals with ASD and how to use teaching strategies that capitalize on learning strengths. In addition, participants will gain knowledge of specially designed principles in order to work with children with ASD in the areas of academics (literacy and numeracy), communication, independence, social and leisure, vocational, relaxation and coping strategies.

After the first day, participants will return to their classrooms and implement individualized evidence-based strategies based on assessment of their students' learning styles and needs. Participants will complete a homework assignment about the strategies they implemented with one student and share that assignment with a DPI Autism Consultant prior to attending day two. The homework is optional but required to receive the 2.0 CEUs.

Please follow this link to access registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-piece-of-the-puzzle-tickets-27212924590>

Regional AU Coaching Team Meetings: These one-day meetings are offered to AU coaching teams, primarily to assist with focused planning and implementation within your Region and across the State. We will discuss information about current happenings and strategic plans, and future ideas. This will also be a

time to collaborate with other AU Coaching Teams from across the region, pose questions to other AU Coaching Team members and the state autism consultants. In addition, we will provide an introduction to specially designed instruction and elements of effective coaching. Participants will receive .6 CEU's.

Please follow this link to access registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foundations-of-autism-a-coaching-framework-tickets-27212116172>

There is no registration fee for any of the professional development (PD). However, LEAs and Charter Schools are responsible for any travel expenses that may be incurred. If your LEA has submitted an Autism Team strategic plan and received PRC 118 funds to assist with capacity building in the area of autism, you may use those funds to send team members to the PD.

If you have any questions, please send email to ncauteam@gmail.com.

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